

Intelligence Information Report

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REPORT NO. CS-311/06435-71

DATE DISTR. 2 September 1971

COUNTRY South Vietnam

DOY 1966 - Late 1969

SUBJECT American Prisoner Who Cooperated
With the VC in VC Quang Da Special
Zone and Conditions in the VC
Military Region 5 Prison Camp

271111
1 SAC

ACQ

SOURCE

Summary. In about June 1968 [redacted] learned from a proselyting cadre about an American prisoner named Bobby who had been persuaded to cooperate with the Viet Cong (VC) in the VC Quang Da Special Zone (QDSZ) prison camp at Loc Son Mountain, VC Loc Son Village, VC Dai Loc District, VC Quang Da Province. Bobby helped VC propaganda cadres with their English, wrote propaganda pamphlets and conducted preliminary interrogations of newly-arrived American prisoners to try to convince them to support the VC cause. Bobby was trusted by the VC and allowed to move freely in the nearby Montagnard villages. In late 1968, due to Allied military operations in the area, the Loc Son prison camp was disbanded and Bobby and several other American prisoners

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(Classification)		(Mission controls)				(For Field Distribution see final paragraph)	
STATE	DIA	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	NSA		

CAMP LOG #

1421

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CAMP LOG #

REPORT LOG # 1421

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were moved to the VC Military Region (MR)-5 prison camp. In September 1969 [redacted] was told by [redacted] that [redacted] had met Bobby in late 1966 at the VC MR-5 prison camp and became friends with him. Bobby was about 24 years old, his parents were still living in the U.S. and he had two sisters and one brother. Bobby was well liked by the local Montagnards. Near the end of 1969 [redacted] received word that Bobby had been admitted to the People's Revolutionary Youth Group and was to be transferred to North Vietnam (NVN) because of a chronic stomach ailment. [redacted] told [redacted] that three American prisoners had been captured in the QDSZ between 1966 and 1968 and one in late 1969. [redacted] said the daily food ration for the Americans at the camp was higher than that of high-level VC cadres. Important VC holidays were celebrated by giving the prisoners additional food. Important American holidays were also celebrated at the camp. End Summary.

1. During a meeting in about June 1968 of the Propaganda Subsection at the offices of the VC QDSZ Military Proselyting Section at Loc Son Mountain, VC Loc Son Village, VC Dai Loc District, VC Quang Da Province, [redacted] met a proselyting cadre, Doan C h a n, who told [redacted] about an American prisoner he had met in 1967. Chan explained that he had attended an English course conducted by the VC MR-5 Training Section in early 1967 and, when the course was completed, he had returned to the Proselyting Section where he met with an American prisoner called "Bobby" to practice his English. Chan said he became a friend of Bobby because of frequent contact and he learned about the circumstances of his capture. [redacted] Comment: This prisoner may be identical to the prisoner mentioned in paragraph 1 of CS-311/03376-71 of 20 April 1970 and in CS-311/01550-71 of 1 March 1971. The VC QDSZ includes Danang City and Government of Vietnam (GVN) Quang Nam Province less Que Son District and the southern portion of Duc Duc District. VC Quang Da Province has same boundaries as the QDSZ less Danang City. VC MR-5 includes GVN Quang Nam, Quang Tin, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Kontum, Pleiku, Phu Bon and most of Darlac Province. VC Dai Loc District includes the northern third of GVN Duc Duc District.)

2. Bobby told Chan that in about 1966 he had been driving a jeep from Con Khe post, Dien Binh (GVN Thanh Thuy) Village, Dien Ban District, Quang Nam Province, south near the coast and had lost his way. He went into VC Dien Binh Village to ask directions back to Con Khe and was captured by VC guerrillas. He was later taken to the QDSZ Proselyting Section where he was imprisoned at the Loc Son Mountain prison camp. The American said he was interrogated by Ho A n and (fnu) C h i n, both former English professors in Danang, who succeeded in convincing him to cooperate with the VC.

3. Bobby said he helped VC propaganda cadres improve their English, wrote English language propaganda leaflets designed to attract the attention of American soldiers, and conducted preliminary interrogations of newly-arrived American prisoners in an attempt to convince them to support the VC cause. [redacted] also watched the reactions of the new prisoners and reported his thoughts about them to the VC cadres in charge of the prison camp. Bobby was completely trusted by the VC and was allowed to use an AK-47 rifle for hunting and to move [redacted] in the nearby Montagnard villages.

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4. Bobby remained at the Loc Son prison camp until late 1968, when the camp was disbanded, and was moved to the VC MR-5 prison camp with Ho An and several other American prisoners. (Comment: Chan did not know the location of this prison camp.) The move was made because the area was insecure due to Allied and GVN military operations. At the time of the move the VC released 25 GVN prisoners and one Republic of Korea Armed Forces corporal named Nam Xang U t, who had been captured by the VC during the Tet 1968 attack on Hoi An town. After Bobby was moved to the VC MR-5 prison camp he shared quarters with Ho An instead of living with the other Americans.

5. [redacted] was selected to take a Korean language course by Tran Vinh Q u o c, a member of the Current Affairs Committee of the QDSZ Party Committee and concurrently chief of the Military Proselyting Section. The course, which was sponsored by VC MR-5, was conducted by [redacted] the Proselyting Section. [redacted] told [redacted] that he met Bobby at about the end of 1968 when the VC moved the American prisoners to the VC MR-5 prison camp. [redacted] said he learned English from Bobby and they quickly became good friends. According to [redacted] description, Bobby was about 24 years old, his parents were still living in the U.S. and he had an older brother and sister and a younger sister.

6. [redacted] said that Bobby was free to go anywhere he liked in the area and he visited the Montagnard villages, always returning with food given him by the Montagnards. Whenever the Montagnards gave him a great deal of food, he shared it with the American prisoners. [redacted] said Bobby was highly regarded by the Montagnards and they preferred dealing with him rather than the high-level VC cadres in the area.

7. Near the end of 1969, while [redacted] was conducting the [redacted] course in a secluded area, he received a letter from the VC MR-5 Proselyting Section which said that Bobby had been admitted as a member of the People's Revolutionary Youth Group and was about to be transferred to NVN because he had a chronic abdominal problem that needed treatment. (Comment: [redacted] told [redacted] that a prisoner like Bobby, once he had recovered from his ailment, would not be allowed to return to SVN. He said Hanoi would probably send him through a political indoctrination course and, if Bobby insisted, he would be admitted as a member of the Lao Dong Party.)

8. [redacted] also told [redacted] that three other American prisoners had been captured in the QDSZ between 1966 and 1968. He also said another prisoner, a Marine sergeant from a forest control post in Xuyen Hoa Village, Duy Xuyen District, had been captured in late 1969. (Comment: [redacted] did not give the names of any prisoners other than Bobby.)

9. While speaking about Bobby's activities at the MR-5 prison camp, [redacted] also disclosed information about the living conditions of the American prisoners at the detention camp. Hoat said that until early 1970 a large number of American prisoners were held in VC MR-5 but he did not know how many or where they were detained. He said the daily food ration of an American was considerably higher than that of a high-level VC cadre. Each American prisoner was allowed 800 grams of rice per day and their meals included canned fish and meat.

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manioc added, plus VNS14 (US\$0.05 at the rate of exchange of VNS275 to US\$1) for food and VNS2 (about US\$0.01) for miscellaneous expenses, per day. The prisoners were occasionally given fresh meat obtained during hunting expeditions. The VC encouraged the American prisoners to grow vegetables and raise chickens and pigs to increase their food rations. Each prisoner was allowed to have five "Ruby" cigarettes per day, but the ration was occasionally increased. **[REDACTED]** Comment: Ruby cigarettes are considered the best quality Vietnamese cigarettes.) A VC doctor told **[REDACTED]** that most American prisoners suffered abdominal trouble because they were used to eating meat but were now eating rice, to which they were unaccustomed. Yam, corn and manioc were not added to the rice given the Americans.

10. Important VC holidays, such as National Day on 2 September, Commemoration Day (of the creation of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam) on 20 December, Labor Day on 1 May and the Vietnamese new year were always celebrated by giving the prisoners additional food. The VC intended to make the Americans remember these days for propaganda purposes if they ever returned home. Important American holidays such as Christmas and the 4th of July were also celebrated by the VC in the American prison camp. On the 4th of July Professor An gave a long speech stressing the American struggle against the British colonialists, particularly emphasizing the Bill of Rights, a document that VC propagandists believed to be the earliest progressive declaration in the world. The speech also attacked American Government policy in Vietnam as being against the will of the American people and contrary to the Bill of Rights. **[REDACTED]** also said that, according to a VC study, most middle- and lower-class American prisoners did not understand the war and were thus easily propagandized.

11. Field Dissem: State USMACV USAID CORDS Dir/JUSPAO (Mr. Nickel only) 7th Air Force USARV NAVFORV 525th MI Gp 1021 FAS OSI CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC **[REDACTED]**